

**WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
ANIMAL HEALTH PROGRAM
OPERATIONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE REGARDING HIGHLY
CONTAGIOUS OR FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASES**

Annex 1

**EMERGENCY PLAN FOR FEEDLOTS, DAIRIES, AND LIVESTOCK
BREEDING AND PRODUCTION FACILITIES**

1. Purpose

The purpose of this plan is to identify procedures and biosecurity measures livestock producers should take to prevent foreign animal diseases (FAD) in their livestock. This plan also lists procedures and responsibilities that producers should follow if an outbreak occurs on their property or in their livestock. In addition, a list of disinfectants as well as state and federal field veterinarians are listed as a reference.

2. Preventing Foreign Animal Diseases

- a. Limit the amount of nonessential traffic on the farm. Post a sign at the entrance area instructing all visitors to check in at a central location, such as the farm house.
- b. Drivers of essential vehicles, such as feed or milk trucks should be instructed to drive only to where they need to go. Stop all nonessential vehicles from entering the farm and arrange to have collection and delivery of supplies to take place at a designated area, preferably at the farm boundary.
- c. Require livestock and feed haulers to clean and disinfect their transport vehicles before hauling livestock or feed to or from your operation.
- d. Know who is on your farm or ranch at all times. Keep a record of all deliveries and visitors. If a FAD is found on your facility, this information will help with follow-up investigations.
- e. Have only one combined entrance and exit. If there will be no one available to monitor visitors or delivery traffic, develop a system for all visitors, inspection personnel, and service or delivery personnel to sign in so that all visits can be monitored. Display the name of the farm and telephone number on the gate or entrance so individuals can call and make appointments to see the owner or manager if their visit is essential.
- f. Limit access of nonessential people. Unauthorized visitors should not be allowed to come in contact with farm animals. If your livestock business depends on

- visitors, such as petting farms, or international and local visitors for sales promotion, ensure that they have not visited or originated from countries where diseases such as Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) have recently occurred. If visitors are from these countries, prohibit entry until they have been away from that country for five days and their clothes and foot wear have been washed before traveling to the farm and ranch property. If international visitors bring pets with them, insist the pets are bathed with shampoo and restrict the pets' entry for five days as well.
- g. Provide disinfectant and appropriate disposable footwear, for business clients. Essential and authorized visitors such as veterinarians, dairy inspectors, etc., should wear outer garments or coveralls and disinfect their boots before entering the animal areas and before exiting the farm. Producers should provide a tub of soap and water and a tub of disinfectant with a brush to facilitate the removal of manure and mud in one tub and sanitize boots in the other.
 - h. Owners and managers should develop and enforce a policy for their families and farm workers who visit other livestock farms, auctions or any area where livestock are kept. When any member leaves the farm, it is recommended that clothes are changed, especially if going to another farm, sale barn, etc. Upon returning from the auction, wash your hands, face and change clothes, including that favorite cap, before handling your animals.
 - i. Be careful when you buy livestock. If you add or replace animals, be sure it is from a known reputable dealer and purchased in the United States or Canada or other countries approved by USDA, APHIS, VS. Insist on the herd of origin and health certificate on all animals entering your premises. Isolate new stock for two weeks for observation.
 - j. Prevent contact between healthy animals and those suffering from routine illnesses to prevent unnecessary stress to healthy animals. Feed, water and treat healthy animals before working with sick animals.
 - k. Be careful where you buy feed and equipment. Buy only from reputable dealers. Be sure you only buy feed produced in the United States and used equipment that was not shipped from other countries. Be even more vigilant than usual about cleaning and disinfecting animal handling facilities and equipment. Use separate equipment for healthy and sick animals.
 - l. Keep dogs, cats, and other animals confined to the farm and under control. Do not feed or encourage wildlife to come onto your farm. Deer and elk are susceptible to FMD and are very difficult to control if your farm or an adjacent farm should become infected. Dogs, cats and horses can serve as mechanical carriers of FMD and other FAD.

- m. Work with a reputable pest control company to establish and maintain an effective pest control program to control rodents and insects. Manage feed storage to prevent vermin and bird attraction. They can also serve as mechanical carriers of a FAD and in some cases act as a reservoir of infection.
- n. Keep livestock away from raw household waste, bones or swill. Food waste used as livestock feed is required to be fully cooked before feeding to swine. Contact USDA/APHIS for their guidelines in 9 CFR 166 on handling food waste.
- o. Treat each farm as a separate unit. Make separate arrangements for labor, management and feeding.
- p. If you observe unusual disease symptoms in livestock, call your local veterinarian immediately. The typical symptoms associated with FMD are vesicles (blisters) followed by erosions in the mouth or on the feet and resulting slobbering or lameness of the animal. There are other conditions that have similar symptoms. Your veterinarian and state or federal veterinarians can help diagnose and prevent a FAD from spreading. See the veterinarian's list at paragraph 6.
- q. To learn more about FMD, visit the federal Web site www.aphis.usda.gov.

3. FAD Suspected or Diagnosed on the Farm

- a. Based on the history of the infected animal(s) and lesions observed by the federal or state veterinarian, the tentative diagnosis is sufficient to initiate preventive measures required to control the spread of FMD. It is anticipated that laboratory confirmation of FMD would take approximately 48 hours.
- b. If you observe FMD symptoms in livestock, you must NOT move the sick animals or other animals on the premises to any location off the property, especially to the sale barn or slaughter, until the veterinarian indicates it is acceptable to do so. Moving the animals with suspected FMD or other FAD is illegal and in violation of Chapter 16.36 RCW.
- c. If a FAD is suspected, take the same precautions as if the sick animal actually had a FAD until the laboratory provides negative test results. Since the FMD virus may be spread by sick animals for several days before signs or symptoms are evident, it is essential that utmost precautions begin as soon as possible. Your veterinarian and/or state and federal veterinarians will work with you to determine animal and personnel movement on and off the farm before signs of the disease occurred. If a FAD is confirmed, this information will be helpful for trace back investigations to determine the extent of potential spread of the disease.

- d. It has been reported that the major contributing factor to the spread of FMD in England during the outbreak of 2001 was the movement of livestock, people and vehicles. When such a devastating disease is suspected, your existing biosecurity system must be enhanced. Movement of animals, people, and vehicles onto and off of your premises should cease. Prevention measures noted above should be enhanced and strictly monitored. Additional measures noted below should be taken.
- e. All family members and workers essential to the farming operation should be the only ones allowed on the farm. Throughout the eradication process, the mindset of identifying people, animals, objects and areas as "clean" and "dirty" will assist in preventing spread of the disease. With contamination of an FAD on the premises, anyone working on the farm and living in the household would be considered dirty and should not leave the farm to prevent spread outside the farm, unless it is absolutely necessary. To minimize contamination of personnel, the home, and pets, identify clean and dirty areas around the barn area. Continue using disinfectants to clean boots and water-proof clothing, and change into clean clothes before entering the house. Keep pets restricted from the livestock area.
- f. If a FAD is suspected, state officials will quarantine the premises and establish a sanitizing station at a single entrance and exit on the farm. All vehicles will be disinfected before they leave the premises. Milk from infected dairies cannot be used, therefore milk truck drivers and the companies purchasing the milk must be notified.
- g. If families members and workers must leave and return to the farm, a system for showering and changing into clean clothes and shoes at the perimeter of the farm should be established. It is recommended that clean clothes are washed thoroughly with hot water and stored at the entrance or perimeter of the property. However, arrangements should be made with friends or neighbors to deliver food, and other necessities to the perimeter of the farm until the crisis ends. Children and spouses may have to remain home from school and jobs located off the farm. However, homework assignments could be assigned over the phone or delivered to the perimeter of the property. Telecommuting may be possible for some jobs.
- h. Herds infected with or exposed to FMD will be confined until all susceptible animals are euthanatized and disposed. Susceptible and non-susceptible animals should not be allowed to graze in pastures that adjoin other pastures with livestock. Confinement also limits the contamination of fields and pastures. If feed must be replenished for the welfare and well being of animals, delivery trucks would be allowed entry. A system for unloading the feed at the perimeter of the farm and disinfecting the vehicle would be established.
- i. Non-susceptible animals, such as horses, should be segregated from susceptible livestock, such as cattle, hogs, sheep, goats, llamas, or other cloven-hoofed mammals. Horses serve as mechanical carriers similar to pets. Because they

frequently share the same barn, feed and pasture as ruminants, it is important to segregate them on the farm to minimize them as a source of infection. Until the infection is cleared from the premises and the horses are bathed and thoroughly cleaned, they should be considered "dirty" and remain on the farm. Disinfectants that are approved are listed in paragraph 5. After washing the horse, acetic acid is recommended to disinfect the horses haircoat and soda ash should be used on the hooves.

- j. Indemnity will be paid for all animals destroyed. Indemnity is usually based on fair market value. The preferred method of animal disposal is to humanely slaughter, burn and bury on the premises. Each farm would be assessed to determine the feasibility of burning and burying. Where burning and burial are not options, carcasses would be carefully moved to a rendering plant or to an area where burning and burial is feasible. Livestock producers assistance is requested by cooperating with state and federal officials to control the spread of a FAD by implementing the recommended procedures noted in the above paragraphs.

4. Recommended Biosecurity Measures for Farm or Ranch Visits

Biological security measures are becoming standard in many agricultural sectors. These controls, meant to minimize the risk of disease introduction and spread, can vary greatly according to operation, and type of visit.

Minimum Biosecurity Measures

- Avoid livestock areas, pens, barns, etc., unless necessary to complete the goal of the visit.
- Park vehicles on paved or hard surface areas, away from production sites on the farm, to avoid contact with dirt, mud or manure.
- Wash hands with soap and water or an antibacterial gel before entering and after leaving the premises to avoid transmitting disease agents from person to person.

Biosecurity Levels

Ensure the appropriate biosecurity levels listed below are used.

Level 1 - Visits to farms or ranches that entail office or home visits only. No contact with livestock or their housing (including pet horses or work dogs)

- Use the minimum measures outlined above

Level 2 - Visits to farms or ranches where minimal contact with livestock or their housing (barns, pens, hutches, etc) is unavoidable to attain the goal of the visit, i.e. property appraisals, tours of production facilities or dairy farm inspections. Contact constitutes walking through animal housing or pastures, but there is **no** contact with animals.

- Apply minimum biosecurity measures **plus**

- Immediately put on clean rubber boots or new plastic disposable boots upon exiting the vehicle.
- After returning to the vehicle, clean and disinfect any equipment used with a brush and approved EPA disinfectant solution.
- Clean rubber boots with an approved EPA disinfectant diluted with water as directed by the label. Scrub the bottoms of the boots with a brush to remove all dirt or debris. Dispose of disinfectant solution according to the label. Unused disinfectant solution should not be discarded on the ground.
- If wearing plastic boots, place them in a plastic bag that should be left on the premises for the owner/producer to dispose of, or place in a designated 'dirty' area of the vehicle.

Level 3 - Visits to farms or ranches where there will be close contact with livestock. Examples are walking through narrowly confined pens, lots where animals are within reach and actually handling/inspecting animals.

- Pre-plan the needed supplies and clothing for daily visits. Use clean clothes for each premises.
- Designate a 'dirty' area in the vehicle for clothing and equipment that has been used on the premises.
- Park the vehicle on paved or hard surface area away from production facilities.
- Put on clean coveralls and rubber boots immediately upon exiting the vehicle.
- After returning to the vehicle, clean and disinfectant all equipment used (including eyewear) and place all disposable supplies in a plastic bag to leave on the premises for disposal or place in a plastic bag and store in the 'dirty' vehicle space. Dispose of the bag later where livestock contact is not possible.
- Clean rubber boots with an approved EPA disinfectant diluted with water. Scrub the bottoms of the boots with a brush to remove all dirt or debris. Dispose of the disinfectant according to the label. Unused Disinfectant should not be discarded on the ground.
- Remove coveralls so that they are inside out and place disposable coveralls in the plastic garbage bag.
- Place the clean equipment and boots in a designated 'clean' area of the vehicle.
- If the vehicle gets contaminated with manure or mud, clean the underside of the vehicle, tires and wheel wells at the nearest pressure wash station.
- At the end of the day, dispose of all 'dirty' plastic bags in a manner that prevents exposure to other livestock. Launder all cloth coveralls. Personal hygiene should include shampooing hair and cleaning under fingernails.

5. Disinfectants Recommended by USDA/APHIS (Revised 3/16/2001)

- a. Household bleach (5.25% Sodium Hypochlorite) --To make a 3% solution, mix 2 gallons of bleach with 3 gallons of water.

NOTE: Before using any disinfectant, first ensure manure and built up organic material are removed with soap and water on boots or with a pressurized spray washer on equipment and vehicles.

- b. Acetic acid (4-5%)--Household vinegar is 4% acetic acid and can be used without mixing.
- c. Soda Ash (Sodium Carbonate)--To mix a 4% solution, add 1 pound to 3 gallons of water. NOTE: It is mildly caustic and will dull painted surfaces.
- d. Lye (Sodium Hydroxide)--To make a 2% solution, mix 1/3 cup lye pellets with 1 gallon of water. NOTE: Highly caustic and will cause equipment corrosion. Personal protective clothing, such as rubber aprons, rubber gloves and safety glasses must be worn. Mix by adding the lye to the water and NOT the reverse.
- e. Virkon-S (Potassium Peroxymonosulfate and Sodium Chloride)--Follow label instructions.

6. State and Federal Field Veterinarians

Immediately report any unusual disease signs or increased mortality. These could be the first signs of a FAD. Call your local veterinarian first. If you have questions or need other assistance, please call one of the following:

WSDA, Animal Health Program, Olympia	(360) 902-1878
Dr. Jeff Howlett - Northwest WA	(360) 966-3091
Dr. Dick Vetter - Southwest WA	(360) 245-3473
Dr. Lee Williams - Central WA	(509) 765-3922
Dr. Peter Tran - Southeast WA	(509) 786-2712
USDA Veterinary Services, Olympia	(360) 753-9430
Dr. Rolf Westly, Eastern WA	(509) 257-2953
Dr. Don Dixon, Northeast WA	(509) 476-2635